The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 8. NO. 51. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1919. WHOLE NO. 415.

WAGES AND PROFITS ARE NOT IDENTICAL

Washington, March 15.—If a business man reduces his profits that is no reason why wages should be reduced, said A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison in answer to a statement by the United States federal reserve board that "all classes must share in the results of readjustment, including wages and price matters, soon to be expected."

"The board seems to accept the economic error," said Secretary Morrison, "that the price of a commodity and the price of labor power are identical. A business man never reduces his profits to the point where his living standards will be affected. Some of his luxuries may be affected and some of his watered stock may be made dividendless, but he maintains his living standard and that of his family.

"Where wages are reduced, however, living standards of the workers are immediately affected and the home suffers.

"The board says that if price and wage readjustments will 'be equitably carried out, its effect will not tend to favor any particular class or group in the community.'

"The working man will ask if his living standards are to be endangered, will the same theory apply to the employer, or is it intended to have the latter merely dispense with some of his war-time profits?

"There is nothing 'equitable' about such an arrangement. Its theory is unsound and in practice it is impossible."

ACCEPT JOHN D.'S IDEA.

Chicago, March 15.—The International Harvester company will no longer openly antagonize trade unionism—an attempt will be made to smother it by adopting the system of John D. Rockefeller, jr.

The company announces that a secret ballot will be taken by its employes on the question of adopting an "industrial council" plan, which will give the workers a "voice" in the labor policies of the company.

Grievances can be taken up to the president of the company and if that fails a grand conclave of the workers' representatives and the company officials will be assembled. If that fails the matter can be referred "by mutual consent" to arbitration by disinterested parties.

Trade unionists call attention to the little joker "mutual consent," which will make a solution of grievances impossible unless the company is willing. The unionists compare this jug-handled provision with trade union agreements which provide that where differences with employers can not be adjusted, the matter automatically goes to arbitration.

But only trade unionists are noticing the little joker and newspapers are shrieking their delight with the "progressiveness" of the harvester trust, which makes sure to hold the trump cards, as does the Rockefeller "union" in Colorado.

WOMEN'S RATES LOW.

Albany, N. Y., March 15.—An investigation of women's wages in this state, conducted by the state industrial commission, shows that in 417 factories, for all women on the pay roll, 32,881 in number, 3,305, or 10 per cent, earned for the week reported less than $8 a week; 6,434, or 20 per cent, less than $8; 11,377, or 35 per cent, less than $10; 17,593, or 53 per cent, less than $12; 22,426, or 68 per cent, less than $14; 10,455, or 32 per cent, earned $14 or over, and 2,711 or 8 per cent, earned $20 or over.

Tabulations for factories included only shop workers (excluding office employes), but for mercantile establishments all occupations were included. Commissions and bonuses were included in earnings, and all reports used were for weeks with six working days.

CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

London, England, March 15.—A correspondent to the London Times suggests' that in discussing strikes and industrial unrest that the policy of "placing the cart before the horse" be abandoned.

"There is much mischievous talk," he says, "about the influence of agitators over the working man. The agitator is the result, not the cause of discontent; merely the foam on the surface. The working man of today is well informed and therefore practical and reasonable."

INSTALL SIX-HOUR DAY.

Omaha, Neb., March 15.—The Moving Picture Machine Operators' union has established the six-hour day and raised wages from 50 to 70 cents an hour. Practically every picture house in this city has signed the agreement, and the members of the union who returned from the war, are again employed.

Six years ago these workers, then unorganized, were paid from 20 to 25 cents an hour, with no limit on the work day.

WANT 36-HOUR WEEK.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, March 15.—In its new constitution the provincial federation of labor declares for a 36-hour work week for this province. It also favors a system of taxation whereby land held for speculative purposes will be assessed at the owner's selling price.

The first preamble of the constitution declares for free and compulsory education.

PASS VOTERS' AID.

Albany, N. Y., March 15.—The state assembly has proposed an amendment to the state constitution under which persons whose occupations occasion their absence from their homes on election day would be permitted to vote. The trade unions and railroad brotherhoods urged the measure.

URGE 44-HOUR WEEK.

Boston, March 15.—Machinists' union No. 264 has voted to ask their international officers to set a date for the 44-hour week to go into effect, either nationally or section-wide.

FIRE FIGHTERS UNITE.

Augusta, Ga., March 15.—Fire fighters in this city have organized and affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters.

BUILDERS RAISE WAGES.

Kansas City, Mo., March 15.—Bricklayers, stone masons and building laborers in this city have secured wage increases.

PROFIT-SHARING PLAN BASED ON DECEPTION

Chicago, March 15.—"There is as much deception in the publicity campaign of profit-sharing plans for workers in big industrial plants as there was in German propaganda," says the Union Leader, official paper of the organized street car employes of this city.

"The press bureaus of bolshevik! employers are grinding this bunk out by the yard and the daily papers are feeding it to the gullible to swallow," says the Union Leader, which shows that these profit-sharing schemes are installed by anti-union employers, and that it is necessary for workers to remain in service from five to 10 years before they can secure profits that range from $75 to $150 a year.

"How does this increase compare with the wage increases secured through the trade unions?" is asked. "The latest effort of the Chicago street car men, through their union, brought an increase of 9 cents an hour. On a basis of 300 working days a year, which is very conservative for street car men, this wage increase amounts to $270 annually for each employe. And the increase was general and not to a favored few, and the employes maintained their independence. It was but one movement, the employes retaining their organization to move again when it becomes necessary.

"So-called profit sharing, to use a stereotyped expression, is a delusion and a snare. It does not share profits with the employes. It keeps the workers divided and prevents them from forcing a more equal share of the revenue from the business through the power of organization.

"It is little wonder that the power of the daily newspapers is waning when they devote space to the boosting of methods to rob the workers and keep them helpless, at the mercy of the autocrats of industry.

"The people are thinking. They are no longer carried away by dishonest news stories and editorial hogwash. Some day, not far distant, they will center their fire on the subsidized press, and when that day comes our commercialized journalists will find the world about as small and desolate as it now appears to the kaiser."

WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—A government committee in charge of public employment offices announces that this system will not take sides in a strike.

"When a strike is threatened," says the statement, "the men's representatives can file a statement of their case with the local employment office. This statement will be confidential.

"Should the employer seek to replace strikers through the employment office he will be told that a statement has been filed by the men that a strike is on; if he desires, he can file a statement of his case.

"Thus, when a man seeks a position through the employment office he will be told that a request for labor has come from this employer, that a strike is on, that he can read both the men's and the employer's statement on the strike.

"In this way the employment office will fairly carry out its duties to all parties. It will be strictly neutral. If the man goes to the job, he does so of his own free will.

"Labor has still a further safeguard. It will have equal representation with the employers on the employment service council of Canada, which will control the whole organization."

U. S. ATTORNEY QUITS.

Houston, Tex., March 15.—Federal District Attorney Green has resigned rather than go into court and argue that the acts of the postmaster general in rate cases cannot be reviewed. In a telegram to President Wilson, the district attorney said:

"My pronounced personal views make it impossible for me to conscientiously defend the position taken by the postmaster general, and I have so advised the attorney general."

In a later statement Mr. Green said: "I tendered my resignation because the attorney general had instructed me to go into the courts and argue that the acts of the postmaster general were not reviewable by the courts."

CEREAL WORKERS UNITING.

Cincinnati, March 15. — Cereal mill workers are being organized by the International Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers. On January 11 nearly a score of mill workers' unions had been chartered and since then locals have been formed in Medicine Hat, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Portland, Ore.; Grand Forks, N. Dak.; Hutchinson, Kan.; Louisville, Ky.; Marshall, Minn., and Wichita Falls, Tex.

The A. F. of L. has turned over several unions chartered by it to this international.

ELECTRICIANS WIN.

Atlanta, Ga., March 15.—Electrical Workers' union No. 84 has won a two and one-half years' strike against the Georgia Railway and Power company, caused by the discharge of union officials. The company now recognizes the union and will hereafter treat with the workers' representatives. When the strike was called 114 men suspended work and during all this time every member but one stuck to his obligation. It was this loyalty that made success possible.

LENNON NOMINATED.

Bloomington, Ill., March 15.—John B. Lennon, was nominated for mayor on the Labor party ticket in the primaries, and his name will appear on the ballot at the April elections. Every candidate of the Labor party won a place on the ticket and four of the five labor candidates received the highest number of votes cast in the primary.

STIFFEN LABOR LAW.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 15.—The state legislature has amended the state compensation law, and its friends declare that, excepting state insurance, it will now compare favorably with similar legislation in other states.

8-HOUR DAY AT PULLMAN.

Chicago, March 15.—At the meeting of the local federation of labor it was stated that the eight-hour day has been established in the Pullman shops as the result of an organization campaign.

PLASTERERS GAIN.

Kansas City, Mo., March 15.—Organized plasterers have raised wages from $7 to $8 a day.

OFFICIAL WILL URGE NEEDED LEGISLATION

Washington, March 15.—Although congress failed to act on the land reclamation proposal of Secretary of the Interior Lane, that official declares that this project, as well as others needed will be urged when the next congress convenes. In a statement the cabinet official said:

"Congress adjourned without passing any of these important national bills:

"The appropriation of $100,000,000 for providing farms for returned soldiers upon our unused lands. This measure was reported into both houses, but never came to a vote. Twenty thousand soldiers and sailors have written me supporting it.

"The Smith-Bankhead Americanization bill, providing a method by which we can overcome illiteracy in the United States and give our 8,000,000 illiterates an opportunity to read the newspapers and the constitution of the United States.

"A measure providing for the survey of the power resources of the east as well as the west, that our railroads, industries and cities may conserve fuel.

"The general leasing bill, under which withdrawn coal, oil, phosphate and sodium lands would be opened for development under a leasing system, which has been before congress for five years and for which there is a strong majority in both houses, as shown by the fact that a similar bill has passed each house three times.

"The water power bill, which will prevent the use of water now running to waste in our rivers and induce immediate investment in 20 states in the construction of hydroelectric plants."

REFUSE TO BREAK STRIKES.

Kansas City, Mo., March 15.—If the United States employment service permitted itself to be used as a strikebreaking machine it would be given more support by employers, suggests Federal Director Brown in a letter to the Labor Herald, published in this city. Since this letter was written congress has refused to appropriate funds to continue the service.

The director says that one of the causes of complaint by these employers is that when they appeal to the government service, for emergency help they are invariably told that the government will not co-operate where the charge of strikebreaking might be made.

"Naturally," continues the director, "the government is not going to establish throughout the country strikebreaking agencies, nor can it be a party to induce men to accept employment where their presence will act as a disturbing rather than a peace making factor.

"We cannot convey information of employment to be had where a strike exists or is threatened without being placed in a position of activity assisting one of the sides, and, as stated by Secretary of Labor Wilson, the department of labor is authorized to promote industrial peace rather than industrial disturbance."

RIGHT TO UNIONIZE UPHELD.

New York, March 15.—The national war labor board has notified the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company that its employes must have full and free permission "to organize into labor unions in conformity with the announced principles of this board and as a matter of plain right and justice."

The tactics of this company are identical with the steel trust and at the hearings conducted by the board its attorney appeared "as a courtesy" to the government officials, who were told that their jurisdiction was not admitted.

Last November the company refused to obey the board's order to reinstate several victimized members of organized labor and a strike followed. The company attempted to operate cars with strikebreakers, and a wreck killed and injured over 100 passengers.

START CO-OP. MOVEMENT.

Seattle, March 15.—At a cost of $12,000 Steam and Marine Fitters and Helpers' union No. 473 and Plumbers' union No. 32 have purchased a grocery store and will operate it on the co-operative plan. The pipe men will maintain close affiliation with other co-op. movements.

Edmonds, Wash., March 15.—Trade unionists at this place have organized a co-operative association with a capitalization of $10,000. As a starter, groceries and meats will be handled.

PROHIBIT NIGHT WORK.

Boston, March 15.—The state assembly has finally passed the bill to prohibit night work in bakeries despite a ruling by the state attorney general that such action is unconstitutional. Backers of the bill urged that the courts pass on the question which is now before the senate.

FLORIDA PAINTERS STRIKE.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 15.—Organized painters have suspended work to enforce a wage scale that will meet present living costs. The workers made their first move last December, and have been hoping since that time that the contractors would indicate a conciliatory spirit.

FOUNDRY WORKERS UNITE.

Michigan City, Ind., March 15.—Foundry workers have organized and are affiliated with the bona fide trade union movement. There was such a large response to the call that the hall was not large enough to accommodate those present.

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 15.—Officers of the Switchmen's Union of North America report that new lodges have been organized at Billings, Mont.; Lansing, Mich., and Warren, Ohio.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Boston, March 15.—About 15,000 organized iron molders and core makers are expected to ask for an eight-hour day and increased wages in the near future.

WANT AWARD APPLIED.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—The Civic Employes' union has asked the street commissioner to comply with an arbitration award and to put the eight-hour day into operation.

EVIL OF CHILD LABOR NOT REMOVED IN U. S.

Washington, March 15.—The children's bureau of the United States department of labor warns the public that the new child labor bill passed by the last congress does not eradicate this evil. It is shown that there are approximately 2,000,000 working children between the ages of 10 and 16 in this country and that considerably under 200,000 of these children are in occupations coming within the scope of the federal child labor law. The remaining thousands of working children will have only such protection as is afforded by the widely varying laws of the states in which they live.

"While the law is undoubtedly a step in the right direction," says the bureau, "even after it is in force young children will be able to work at some time, in some occupations, in practically every state in the union, and in many states boys and girls will be permitted to work long hours."

Attention is called to the fact that the laws of most states fail to protect children in agriculture and domestic service, although the farm children, according to the census of 1910, constitute about three-fourths of the working children of the United States.

PUBLIC VOTING ON STRIKES.

Olympia, Wash., March 15.—A bill before the Washington legislature shows a new wrinkle in the campaign to stop strikes by law. The latest is that no strike shall be called until after a vote by the organizations involved, taken under the direction of the public election officials after 30 days' notice.

An employer is not interfered with in his right to close down his plant for any reason or no reason, but if his employes would suspend work to enforce their demands, the employer is given 30 days' notice with public officials controlling the election before employes can quit work.

The plan was considered so seriously by legislators that a delegation of trade unionists appeared before a senate committee to voice their protest.

"This is class legislation of the most glaring kind," declared President Short of the state federation of labor. The unionist told the lawmakers that if they passed the bill they will fill the jails with working men, "and all you would accomplish would be to bring law into disrepute."

"If you want to quiet the unrest of labor," he said, "you must remove the cause of that unrest. Efforts to resist increases in wages without efforts to reduce the cost of the necessaries of life will fail, and they ought to fail."

Martin Flyzik, president of district No. 10, United Mine Workers, told the committee that strikes do not start from the agitation of labor officials. They come, he said, from the disaffection, the mistreatment or from grievances, real or fancied, felt by the workers themselves.

AIN'T IT AWFUL.

New York, March 15.—The Engineering and Mining Journal is horrified at the thought of organized workers establishing a wage that will permit them to live in approximate comfort.

Listen to the wail of this publication:

"There is something abhorrent to the technical graduate in the idea of a union that has for its main object, or even one of its objects, the fixing or maintenance of wages. It is inconsistent with the popular idea of 'every one for himself, and the devil take the hindmost,' or, to put it in less homely terms, it is inconsistent with the American idea of independence."

The Engineering and Mining Journal offers no remedy for this awful state of affairs, which may extend to professional men, who are discussing trade union methods to maintain living standards. This is the reason for the editor's "we-view-with-alarm" stuff.

FEWER WOMEN DIE.

Hartford, Conn., March 15.—In a report by the Connecticut state tuberculosis commission it is stated that twice as many men as women die of tuberculosis in the cities of Connecticut, while in the country about the same number of both sexes perish from the disease. In the city tuberculosis kills fewer children than in the country and more girls than boys are killed by the disease.

Commenting on these figures, the report says:

"The deductions from these findings will be various and conflicting, but all can agree that findings of this kind show how important it is that the fight against tuberculosis should be carried into the factories, stores and offices, where city men work."

LOW WAGES AFFECT SCHOOLS

New York, March 15.—At a meeting of the Public Education association it was stated that between 30,000 and 50,000 children in this city are being deprived of educational opportunities in the public schools because of a shortage of teachers. The gravity of the situation was emphasized, and it was stated that the only solution to the problem is in offering more adequate compensation to the instructors.

CHECKING CHILD LABOR.

Albany, N. Y., March 15.—The court of appeals has ruled that even though an employer has prohibited the employment of children under age on his delivery wagons, and this order is violated by a driver the employer is responsible for a violation of the child labor law.

PACKERS' PROFITS BIG.

Chicago, March 15.—A net profit of $7,631,535.21 for the past year is announced by Wilson and company, meat packers. These earnings equal $34.49 a share on the common stock, as compared to $28.96 in the previous year. The sales amounted to $400,000,000.

ON EQUAL PAY BASIS.

El Paso, Texas, March 15.—Organized cooks, waiters and waitresses, consisting of male and female workers, have secured a new wage scale which makes no distinction because of sex.

IDAHO UNIONS ACTIVE.

Boise, Idaho, March 15.—As a result of a referendum conducted by the state federation of labor Idaho trade unionists have voted to assess themselves $1 for the purpose of organizing the men and women wage workers in all branches of industry.

LIABILITY OF UNIONS SHOWN TO BE UNEQUAL

Chicago, March 15.—There is no justice in the claim that because officers of a corporation are liable for the actions of one associate, the same should be true of labor unions, said John H. Walker, president of the Illinois federation of labor, replying to the editor of an employers' paper.

As far as is humanly possible, said the trade unionist, members of corporations protect themselves in the selection of associates. They have every facility for inquiring into the connection of prospective officials.

In the case of trade unions employers select who will work for them even where they have joint agreements and the workers' organizations must accept who the employer hires, so that "there is absolutely no comparison between the methods of selection and the opportunity to protect themselves on the part of the members and officers of corporations and the members and officers of trade unions."

"I am rather under the impression that if it was the members of the trade unions who selected the members and officers of the corporation, that then the members and officers of that corporation would not be as ready to assume responsibility for each other's acts as they are at the present time," said President Walker.

"And in addition to this, we know that the large employers generally have hired detectives and spies in these unions for the purpose of betraying, weakening and wrecking them, if possible.

"The trade union influences its members, as far as it can, to live up to its contracts, and usually, where a member violates a contract, they penalize and discipline him, and go as far as men could reasonably expect them to go in repairing any injury that was done, and I believe it will be found that the average trade union is just about as responsible as are corporations.

"The poor devil who is uninformed or just normal in disposition is here and must make a living. Do you want the workers to assume all responsibility for him, or do you want him to be left alone to be used unjustly to his own injury and to the injury of the other workers?

"They cannot leave him alone; they must protect him, and outside of the selfish aspect of it, as an act of humanity, they want to and should help him. The trade unions dare not assume all responsibility for him. They dare not leave him alone and helpless.

"I believe that the employers should not be allowed to take advantage of the uninformed or unfortunate, and that they, too, should share some of the responsibility for them, and do their share to assist them."

TO VOTE ON NEW LAWS.

Fargo, N. D., March 15.—Plans for a referendum on numerous laws enacted by the recent legislature have been announced by an association that is opposed to this legislation and the campaign promises to be a bitter one. It will be necessary to have signatures of 15,000 voters to secure a referendum and opponents of the laws declare that these will be forthcoming. The bills that will be referred include those creating the industrial commission which is placed in charge of the many contemplated state-owned industries. These include the establishment of a state bank, building of homes, state operation of lignite mines, a newspaper in each county, and a state-owned mill, elevator, warehouse and marketing system. Opponents of this legislation, which was put through by the Non-partisan league, will emphasize the increased cost to the state. Friends of the laws will insist that they are now paying indirectly more than the estimated increased taxation.

PAY POVERTY WAGE.

Philadelphia, March 15.—In favoring increased wages for school teachers, Miss Marie A. Depue, a high school teacher, said:

"The minimum salary of a teacher in Pennsylvania is $315 a year; 10,000 teachers in the state receive that salary. The average salary of a man is $71 a month and of a woman $51.

"These salaries, which were meagre five years ago, are impossible today. With the cost of living increased 80 per cent, practically all of our teachers are enduring hardships and many are in absolute want."

FOOD COSTS ARE SOARING.

Washington, March 15.—Food costs have increased 75 per cent in five years, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics. Prices increased 1 per cent between October and November last year and 18 per cent between November, 1917, and November last year.

In the five-year period from November, 1913, to November, 1918, food prices advanced 75 per cent. Every article shows an increase of 50 per cent or more. Six articles increased 100 per cent or more; namely, pork chops and sugar, 100 per cent; flour, 103; cornmeal, 110; bacon, 114, and lard, 115 per cent.

STRIKE FOR 44 HOURS.

Chicago, March 15.—Over 800 members of Ladies' Garment Workers' union No. 104 are on strike for a 44-hour week and a 10 per cent wage increase. Several big department stores are involved, and they are resorting to their usual anti-union policy. In many instances workers were discharged before the strike because they refused to surrender their union membership.

URGE WOMEN TO UNITE.

Seattle, March 15.—Women organizers of the state federation of labor and the local central labor council have issued an appeal to working women to join the trade union movement.

"Do you know that there is a place for every one of you in some union?" is asked. "If you want to help, call on us and we will be glad to show you how."

UNORGANIZED STRIKE.

Nashville, Tenn., March 15.—Unorganized employes of the Nashville Bridge company suspended work when they were told that a wage increase promised by a foreman would not be granted. The company is doing government work, and wage rates range from 25 to 35 cents an hour.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Tallahassee, Fla., March 15.—The eighteenth annual convention of the Florida state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, April 8.

Depend on Yourselves Is Advice to Teachers

Trenton, N. J., March 15.—Let public school teachers organize to secure a living wage instead of depending on the state to pass minimum wage laws was advocated by members of the state board of education in discussing a report by Commissioner Murray, who was named a committee of one to investigate the advisability of favoring a minimum wage statute.

The investigator is quoted in the public press as doubting "the advisability of a minimum wage act and was inclined to suggest that teachers of the state organize and declare a strike for higher wages unless boards of education voluntarily increased salaries."

Commissioners VanDyke and Cox opposed setting wages by law, and suggested that the teachers help themselves instead of depending upon lawmakers.

This sound trade union position was opposed by President Rice. He favored a minimum wage law and fixed between $800 and $900 as an annual wage. He said these figures "were about as small as a teacher can live on under present conditions."

Idaho Women Law Makers Want to Swap Unionism For Minimum Wage Bill

Boise, Idaho, March 15.—"Some tradin' hoss" is the comment of the official bulletin of the Idaho state federation of labor on the attempt of women law makers to have laundry girls exchange trade unionism for a minimum wage bill.

A meeting was called in this city to organize the laundry girls, and two women members of the state legislature expressed a desire to address the meeting in the interest of a pending minimum wage bill.

In explaining their failure to secure the passage of this bill, they said they were learning "how to play the game" and urged the laundry workers not to organize.

"If you girls will promise us that you will not form a union," they said, "then we can go back to those senators and say to them that they have their choice of two things; either you will pass our minimum wage bill or the women of Idaho will organize."

Regarding this incident, the official bulletin says:

"The laundry workers figured that if they could bring about the enactment of a minimum wage law by rejecting unionism, they would be able to accomplish something worth while by forming a union. Twenty-one new names were added to the original charter list as a result of the meeting and the 'tradin' hoss' is back in the pasture."

DEFEAT EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Indianapolis, March 15.—The house of representatives landed a hard blow on the proposed women's eight-hour law, and when the bill passed its friends could not recognize it. The word "nine" was substituted for "eight," and nearly all industries excluded except factories and amusements. Mercantile establishments, laundries, hotels, restaurants, telephone and telegraph companies, offices, hospitals and public utilities are exempted from the bill. The women affected by the bill shall not work more than six days a week, nor more than 54 hours in one week. Work after 10 p.m. is prohibited.

FISH TRAP MEN GAIN.

Bellingham, Wash., March 15.—Builders of fish traps and web workers have secured a union agreement with the Pacific American Fisheries company. These 300 workers are employed at fish trap construction in Alaska and Puget sound waters. Wages are advanced $25 a month with an eight-hour day and double time for overtime. Crews now in Alaska working under the old rates are included in the agreement.

As this company is one of the largest of its kind, it is believed its example will be followed by similar concerns.

HAD NO EXPERIENCE.

Mineola, N. Y., March 15.—At the Brooklyn Rapid Transit wreck trial here, it was shown that the green motorman who operated the train during a strike, had but a few hours' training. The prosecution contrasted this with the elaborate schooling ordinarily given motormen, which, witnesses swore, usually took 21 days.

The wreck last November, resulting in the loss of scores of lives, followed a strike after the company had refused to reinstate victimized workers on recommendation of the national war labor board.

LABOR LAW ATTACKED.

Sacramento, March 15.—Private insurance companies are backing a bill which would take the management of the state compensation insurance fund from the state industrial accident commission and place it in the hands of other state officials. Every opponent of state control of workmen's compensation favors this move.

HONOR REZIN ORR'S MEMORY.

Detroit, Mich., March 15.—Members of Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men dedicated a beautiful monument to the memory of the late Rezin Orr, whose remains are interred in a cemetery in this city. The departed unionist was international treasurer of the street car men's union for 22 years. He died in this city in October, 1917.

BARBERS ARE ACTIVE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 15.—Organized barbers are protesting against low wage rates and ask for an $18 weekly minimum and 40 per cent of receipts over $25, with working hours from 8 a. m. till 8 p. m. five days in the week and to 9.30 p.m. on Saturday, with one hour for lunch.

FAVOR TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

Milton, Mass., March 15.—By a two to one vote citizens of this town have declared in favor of a two-platoon system for Milton's fire fighters.

COLORED WORKERS UNITE.

Fort Worth, Tex., March 15.—Colored restaurant employes are organizing and are being assisted by local trade unionists.

Building Jurisdiction Strikes May End; Unionists and Employers Submit Plan

Washington, March 15.—The passing of jurisdiction strikes in the building trades is a probability as a result of a recent conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, between organized building craftsmen, contractors, engineers and architects. Those present were:

President Donlin and Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the building trades department A. F. of L.; and the following representatives of international unions: John F. Hynes, president sheet metal workers; Wm. Dobson, general secretary bricklayers and John T. Cosgrove, first vice president carpenters. John B. Lennon represented the United States department of labor and representatives of the American institute of architects, the American society of engineers, the associated general contractors of America and the national association of builders' exchanges were also present.

The plan agreed to, which will be submitted to the interested organizations, provides for the creation of the national board of jurisdictional awards of the building industry, consisting of eight members, four to be selected by the building trades department and four by the contractors, engineers and architects. Eight alternates shall be selected in the same manner. Not more than one member or alternate shall be selected by the building trades department from the same trade.

The board shall hear jurisdiction claims and make awards, a three-fourths majority of the full board being necessary to render a decision. In case of a tie vote an umpire shall be chosen, and where the parties are unable to agree upon an umpire, the secretary of labor of the United States department of labor shall name an umpire.

The building trades department law against sympathetic strikes in jurisdictional disputes shall be strictly enforced. All awards by the board shall be the guide in the conduct of the work of the various organizations and the decisions shall be adhered to by architects and engineers in specifications of work.

All local arbitration committees shall insert in their agreements: "The decisions of the national board shall be final and binding upon the parties to this agreement."

One feature of the plan provides that before an architect inaugurates any new feature of construction in a proposed building the board shall pass upon what trade is entitled to do this work. The plan carries with it no element of compulsion, and if it is agreed to all parties "bind themselves individually and severally to abide by the decisions of the board as herein created."

EXCESSIVE TURNOVERS.

Washington, March 15.—In recounting the turmoil that existed before the United States employment service took charge of the labor situation, and replaced private agencies, the bulletin of this service says:

"During the first five months of our participation in the world conflict, the recruiting of the industrial army—the manning of the growing ship yards, and other war projects—was a haphazard affair. War industries stole labor from one another. Plants took on 500 men on Monday morning only to lose 486 the next Saturday. Unscrupulous private fee-charging employment agencies and labor scouts grew fat on labor turnover. Some manufacturing districts were crippled as to output because of labor shortage, while others had a surplus of workers.

"Thus was forced upon the country general recognition of the urgent necessity for a central agency of the government which would intelligently assemble and distribute the labor power of the country and stabilize employment conditions."

The congress that adjourned March 4 refused to appropriate funds to continue this service, and it is probable that the "fee-charging employment agencies" will again profit by labor turnover. These agencies were the most bitter opponents of the federal employment service, and were aided by employers who want an employment system that can be depended upon to supply strikebreakers.

ILLITERACY A MENACE.

Washington, March 15.—School Life, official organ of the United States bureau of education, appeals to the nation and to the various states to act jointly in a campaign to remove illiteracy. It is estimated that there are 5,500,000 persons in the United States over 10 years of age who can not read a newspaper, bill board, sign, booklet or letter in the English language.

"This problem is national," says School Life. "The south leads in illiterates. The north leads in non-English speaking. Seventeen and one-half per cent of the people of the east south central states are illiterate, but 15.8 per cent of the people in Passaic, N. J., can not read, speak or write English. Sixteen per cent of the people of the south Atlantic states are illiterate, and so are 13.2 per cent of the people of Lawrence and Fall River, Mass."

NEW WAY TO RAISE WAGES.

Kansas City, Mo., March 15.—President Kealy of the local street car company has announced that wages have been raised 5 cents an hour. This would mean an advance of 50 cents a day if the company at the same time did not withdraw its war bonus of $1 a day. As a result of this "wage increase" the company profits 50 cents a day on each employe. President Kealy has had a long controversy with his organized motormen and conductors and has refused to accept a decision by the national war labor board. These workers are now on strike.

HOW FOOD COSTS JUMP.

Ottawa, Canada, March 15.—The Labor Gazette, issued by the Dominion government, says that the cost of the weekly family budget of staple foods averaged $13.78 at the middle of January as compared with $13.65 in December, $12.42 in January, 1918, and $7.72 in January, 1914. The index number of wholesale prices stood at 286.5 for January, as compared with 289.8 for December, 258.7 for January, 1918, and 136.5 for January, 1914.

FIREMEN NOT "WORKMEN."

Bakersfield, Cal., March 15.—The city council has voted that municipal firemen do not come under the city charter prescribing an eight-hour day for city employes. The law applies to "any laborer, workman or mechanic employed upon any of the public works of the city or upon work done for said city."

The firemen are wondering if the city fathers look upon them as "professional men."

WEAKEN FIRE LAW.

Albany, N. Y., March 15.—A bill before the state legislature would weaken the factory fire law by striking out of the definition of "owner" of tenement factories the provision that such definition shall include the agent in charge of the property.

SHOE WORKERS ACTIVE.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—Representatives of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union are discussing trade matters with the organized shoe manufacturers of this province. The workers are asking for a 44-hour work week and a 10 per cent wage increase throughout Ontario.

TEXT BOOK LAW SIGNED.

Austin, Texas, March 15.—The governor has signed a bill providing for free text books. This is the enabling act under the amendment to the Texas constitution providing for free text books in public schools.

"BALL UP" CHILD LABOR LAW.

Elizabeth City, N. C., March 15.—Cotton manufacturers have succeeded in "balling up" the new child labor law, says W. O. Saunders, a member of the North Carolina legislature, writing in the Elizabeth City Independent. He points out that the Neal child labor law has hopelessly mixed compulsory education with child labor, and shows that the compulsory education act is for the whole state and is not primarily concerned with a certain group of children in the state. This writer says that the department of education will become involved in endless difficulties with the mill owners, with the result that education will suffer and child labor will continue.

Another sinister move by the mill owners was to place the enforcement of the law with the department of charities and public welfare whose function is to deal with delinquent and abnormal children of the state. The superintendent of this department is appointed, while the commissioner of labor and printing is elected, and it is charged that the mill owners hope to control the appointive office.

"The textile manufacturers of North Carolina are not honest on the child labor question; they merely think they are," is the concluding statement of the writer.

WANTS BURLESON REMOVED.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 15.—The removal of Postmaster General Burleson was urged in resolutions approved at a meeting of the state federation of labor executive council. The following information was forwarded to President Wilson:

"Pennsylvania federation of labor executive council, in session here, urges removal of Postmaster General Burleson because of treatment of employes and the un-American spirit revealed in the conduct of his office."

Los Angeles, Cal., March 15.—Commercial Telegraphers' union No. 48 has appealed to President Wilson to remove Postmaster General Burleson. The postal chief is charged with victimizing trade unionists and with refusing to improve working conditions.

EMPLOYERS MUST CHANGE.

Madison, Wis., March 15.—"The gap between labor and capital must be closed; the principle of collective bargaining must be recognized," said Prof. Ralph Dennis of the Northwestern university, Chicago, in a speech in this city.

"Organized labor must be recognized and dealt with accordingly," continued the speaker. "Labor in the future must get more of what it produces. There is no other solution. Americanization is the only hope."

The speaker made it clear that his ideal of Americanization is the unqualified acceptance of the principles of Americanism, industrially as well as politically.

CO-OPS PAY DIVIDENDS.

Witt, Ill., March 15.—A 7 per cent dividend was paid to members of the Witt co-operative society for the last quarter. This dividend, based on the amount of purchases, totaled $1,272.25. The total resources of the society are $22,338.53.

Collinsville, Ill., March 15.—Dividends to the amount of $220.03 were paid members of the local co-operative society. During the last three months sales to members totaled $10,801.65, and to non-members, $9,369.19.

WON'T INCREASE BENEFITS.

Indianapolis, March 15.—The house of representatives has refused to increase compensation benefits to injured workers. An attempt was made to raise the amount to 65 per cent of the average weekly wage, but the lawmakers believe that an injured worker only needs a benefit based on 55 per cent of his wage.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY EXPANDS.

Cincinnati, March 15.—Officers of the International Union of Journeymen Horseshoers report that a number of local unions are negotiating for the eight-hour day to take effect May 1 and that little opposition on the part of employers is developing.

URGE FIVE-DAY WEEK.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—Building craftsmen are urging the adoption of a five-day week. A big department store in this city has given this movement an impetus by announcing that it will close down on summer months' Saturdays.

TIMBER WORKERS TO MEET.

Seattle, March 15.—A call has been issued for the second annual convention of the International Union of Timber Workers, to be held in this city beginning Monday, March 31.

DEATH IN INDUSTRY.

York, Pa., March 11.—Six men were seriously injured and the lives of a dozen others were endangered when the bottom of a pressure tank blew out at the plant of the York Manufacturing company.